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## ***Milwaukee Health Department Awarded In-kind Donation of OFF!® Mosquito Repellant to Fight West Nile Virus SC Johnson's donation of OFF!® to reach elderly population most susceptible to disease***

As a result of the generous donation by the Racine-based SC Johnson Company, the City of Milwaukee Health Department will be distributing approximately 300 cans of the mosquito repellent OFF!® to agencies serving the elderly, so that they may be better protected from West Nile Virus (WNV). The distribution is part of a campaign coordinated by the State of Wisconsin Division of Public Health. Milwaukee County has received approximately 35% of the total in-kind donation.

"This is an excellent example of a public-private partnership that promotes a regional approach to an emerging public health issue," said Health Commissioner Bevan K. Baker, CHE.

"The timing of the repellent distribution is ideal," stated Paul Biedrzycki, Manager of Disease Control and Prevention. "This campaign will coincide with what is generally considered the peak period of potential WNV human infection in the Midwest region, generally late August through September." The distribution of mosquito repellent will be concurrent with the third and final round of mosquito larvicide placement in the City of Milwaukee, beginning in late August. Mosquito avoidance and source reduction along with public education campaigns such as the MHD "Fight the Bite" are key strategies in controlling the spread of WNV and are consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations.

Recently the State Division of Public Health announced two WNV-positive adult mosquito pools and the detection of the first human case of WNV in Wisconsin. This finding is not surprising since mosquito numbers tend to peak during late summer, consequently increasing the probability of human infection.

The MHD will be working with the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) and Milwaukee County Department on Aging to ensure that City residents highest at risk receive the repellent.

Further information on WNV can be found on the MHD website [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health) or by calling 414-286-3606 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.